

# Arthur Benson Will Retire at End of Year

Arthur S. Benson, clerk of the State Supreme Court, who with nearly 52 years of service with the state's highest tribunal, retires December 31, will be honored on December 16 with a reception in his office.

Hosts for the affair will be the justices of the court, Chief Justice Earl C. Latourette, Acting Chief Justice Harold J. Warner and Associate Justices George Rossman, Walter L. Tootz, William C. Perry, Hall S. Lusk and James T. Brand.

The reception will be held between the hours of 4 and 6 and all of the friends of the honored guest are invited to attend. Many top state officials are expected to pay their respects to the retiring clerk.

Benson's span of service extends over half of the period of existence of the office, which extends back prior to the territorial government.

The first clerk of the Supreme Court was G. W. Le Bretton, who became clerk January 15, 1844. Benson was the 16th clerk being appointed February 5, 1918. He served as deputy clerk under J. J. Murphy, March 10, 1902, until June 19, 1907, when J. C. Moreland became clerk of the court. He continued as deputy clerk until he was appointed to the post.

The State Supreme Court met on the third floor of the old State House until February, 1914 when it moved to the present supreme court building. Until 1909 the court was composed of three justices — then it was increased to five and in 1913 it was increased to seven, its present numerical strength.

Since establishment of the supreme court under Oregon's provisional government in 1941 with Dr. Ira L. Babcock as the one Supreme Court justice with probate power, there have been a total of 74 justices of the court. Of this number, Benson has served under 43, commencing under Justices Robert S. Bean, Charles E. Wolverton and Frank A. Moore.

Benson said Saturday that until the introduction of typewriters all records of the court were handwritten, including opinions of the court. The first appearance of typewritten opinions was that of Justice Frank A. Moore in 1892. It was not until 1893 that all opinions were typewritten. Benson set up the present filing system and inaugurated other innovations in the clerk's office during his long administration.

In 1925 Benson began publication of Advance Sheets, including printed opinions of the court. Ten years later, under legislative authority, Benson conducted the first election of the governors of the Oregon State Bar.

In the year following, also under legislative direction, Benson became custodian of all plans in a national competition of architects for a new capitol building, plans later submitted to the State Capitol Reconstruction commission for award of prizes and selection of architects.

In his position as clerk, Benson was personally acquainted with most members of the bar over the last half-century, and many persons who to the average student of Oregon history are only names, are to the veteran clerk, people whom he knew intimately and served in the early days.

Benson, although eligible for retirement some years ago, at the request of the court stayed on the job until under state law his retirement becomes compulsory. Hence on December 31, this faithful state worker will terminate his services to the state supreme court and the Oregon bar.

He will be succeeded by F. M. Sercombe of Portland. Benson was born in San Jose, Calif., September 19, 1878 and was educated in the public schools in Grants Pass. He was graduated from Willamette University law school with an LL.B. degree in 1905.

On September 12, 1908 he married Marietta Ann McGregor.

Benson was a nephew of former Gov. Frank L. Benson, who succeeded to the governorship in 1909 after Governor George E. Chamberlain had been elected to the United States senate.



Arthur S. Benson, long-time clerk of Oregon Supreme Court, who announces retirement at end of this year.

## COURT CLERK TO RETIRE

## Seven Tracts Being Offered

Fifteen million board feet of timber in seven tracts appraised at a total of more than a quarter of a million dollars are to be offered for bids on December 4, according to the Salem district forester for the bureau of land management.

Located in the Salem forest district, three of the tracts are in Linn county and one each in Clackamas, Benton, Tillamook and Lincoln counties.

The district forester reported that four of the tracts, ranging in volume from 235,000 board feet to 2,157,000 board feet each, consist of wind fire or insect-damaged timber or salvage from previous logging. The tracts which consist primarily of green Douglas fir timber are estimated to contain 5,344,000 board feet, 3,708,000 board feet, and 1,675,000 board feet and are located, respectively, east of Lacombe, south of Molalla, and south of Philomath.

Sealed or oral bids, as specified for each tract offered, will be received at the regular monthly timber sale which commences at 9 a. m., December 4, 1953, at 460 North High street in Salem.

## East Salem

East Salem—The third meeting of the Merry Mixers 4-H club, the second of the regular scheduled class meetings, was held Tuesday at the home of the assistant leader, Mrs. Albert Suran.

The lesson demonstration was given by Sharon Suran and Marlene Mallicoat.

Attending were Eileen Smalley, Judith Howard, Kay Ingle, Sharon Suran, Gail Marble, Judy Pahl, Diane Muller, Monica Smith, Sandra Pankratz and Marlene Mallicoat, with Mrs. Dale Mallicoat and Mrs. Suran, leaders.

Mothers present were Mrs. Harvey Page and Mrs. Cleo Keppinger.

The club will not have the Christmas party until Dec. 22, but will exchange gifts. The next lesson meeting will be at the Page home.

In Auburn community, Mrs. Arlo McLain entertained with a luncheon, members of her Jolly Eight card club, at her Monroe avenue home. It was a birthday remembrance for four of the members, Mrs. Earl Kason, Mrs. Henry Knight, Mrs. Edwin Jackson and Mrs. McLain.

Thanksgiving guests at the Glenn Meddy home on Monroe Ave. were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wegner, Mrs. Albert Hike, Mr. and Mrs. Glen C. Jones, Mrs. Margaret Triplet of Portland, Glenda, Larry and Dennis Moody, and the hosts.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Johns and Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Willet, Fred, Keith and Dorothy, were in Salem at the home of Mrs. John's mother, Mrs. John French, for Thanksgiving dinner.

Two of the shut-ins in Swedge community were remembered this week by a number of small children of the Garden Road Christian Bible school. They were taken by their teachers, Mrs. L. H. Camp and Mrs. Ralph Robertson, to sing and present a basket of fruit to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Curry of Dawes Rd., shut in with rheumatic fever for two years.

Assisting with cars were Mrs. Leonard Odom and Mrs. Ellen Rickman. The class members were Eric Smith, Kay Blackmore, Mike and Linda Anglin, Charlotte Robertson, John and Danny Cameron, Terry Alderman, Marcia Odom, Roy Rickman, Danny Weigert, Roger and Jeanette Wilhelm, Rebecca and Jimmie Baughn, Ruth Smith, Susan Kettle, John Wright, Randy Quarry, Douglas von Boring, Dick and Terry Cordon.

## Verse Moves Man to Put Coin in Meter

Farmington, N.M. (AP)—Poetry, or anything that resembles it, seems to bring out the very best in W. H. Christiansen.

He saw this on the windshield of a woman's car as time was running out on a parking meter:

"My dear cop,  
I'm sorry you had to stop.  
It nearly breaks my heart.  
But my car won't start.  
My kiddies are home  
So I can't stay here—  
Please don't give me a ticket  
When 'violation' does appear."  
The "cop" never saw the note. Christiansen, moved by the verse, deposited a nickel in the parking meter.

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## Eugene O'Neill, Famed Playwright Passes

Boston (AP)—Eugene O'Neill, famed playwright and Nobel prize winner, died last night at his home of bronchial pneumonia. He was 65.

Funeral services will be private in accordance with his wishes.

Also a three time Pulitzer prize winner in literature, O'Neill had roamed the world for material until recent years when he was stricken with Parkinson's disease. That disease, a form of palsy, gradually cut down his activities until writing became impossible.

Present at his bedside were his third wife, the former Carlotta Monterey, a nurse, and his physician, Dr. Harry L. Kozol who said death was caused by bronchial pneumonia.

High point in his long career was in 1936 when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature. The award committee did not cite any particular work but O'Neill considered his play "Mourning Becomes Electra," a strong factor in the choice.

That prize was only one of the many honors won by the prolific playwright, who had more than two score plays produced. His Pulitzer Prizes were for "Beyond the Horizon," 1920; "Anna Christie," 1922; and "Strange Interlude," 1928.

On receiving news of O'Neill's death, George Jean Nathan, influential newspaper and magazine drama critic, said in New York the American theater had lost its greatest playwright and "I have lost one of my longest and dearest friends."

Nathan was one of the first to recognize O'Neill's talents and started to open Broadway doors for him in 1917. O'Neill's last Broadway play was "The Iceman Cometh" in 1946.

Other O'Neill plays included "The Emperor Jones," "The Straw," "Desire Under the Elms," "Marco Millions," "Ah, Wilderness," "Days Without End," "The Fountain," and "All God's Chillun Got Wings."

## PLAYWRIGHT DIES



Eugene O'Neill, noted American dramatist, and once winner of the Nobel prize, who died Friday in Boston.

## Students Give Help in Christmas Seal Sale

The class in public speaking at Salem Senior High School, under the direction of Del Ramsdell, instructor in speech and English, is gathering information containing facts and figures on the purpose and benefits of the Christmas Seal sale.

The young students are volunteering their time to give short talks before clubs and organizations on the subject "What the Christmas Seal Sale Means to You and Your Community."

"I feel this will serve a dual purpose because while these young people are telling others about the disease that still kills more young people between the ages of 15 and 25 than any other malady, they will also become more aware of the importance of preventing the disease in themselves," remarked Coburn Grabenhorst, seal sale chairman.

Peter Van Horn, a member of the class is in charge of scheduling the appearance of the students at the various meetings.

## Counting Calories?



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## Meeting on World Issues

The second public meeting in the realm of international relations will be held Monday, Nov. 30 at 8 p. m. in the lobby of the YMCA.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Norman Huffman of Willamette university who will speak on "Conditions and Problems of the Middle East."

Dr. Huffman returned to Salem in September after being abroad for over a year. Part of the time was spent in Italy where he did extensive study and research on Greek New Testament manuscripts on a Fulbright grant.

During June and July of this year, Dr. Huffman visited in countries of the Middle East, where he had first hand opportunity to observe conditions and the political situations in this area. He was in Egypt following the visit of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and observed the reaction of the official visit in that area. Beyrout was visited while an economic conference of the Arab countries

**Well Child Clinic At Woodburn Dec. 8**

Woodburn — Appointments are now being taken for the two well-child health conferences to be held in the North Marion county area Tuesday, Dec. 8. Residents of the Woodburn and Gervais areas will meet at the Woodburn public library from 9:30 a. m. until noon and those from Hubbard, Donald, Butteville, Broadacres and Aurora will meet at the North Marion union high school from 1:30 to 2:30 p. m.

Arrangements for appointments at the Woodburn conference may be made by calling Mrs. Edward Coman at 6036. For the North Marion high school conference appointments may be made by calling either Mrs. Raymond Peterson in Aurora, 7005 after 5 p. m. or Mrs. Les Eppers at Aurora 5715.

**PENNY HAS BABY**  
Los Angeles (AP)—A 7-pound, 4 1/2-ounce daughter was born yesterday to actress Penny Edwards, wife of Ralph Winters, a television casting director. It is their first child.

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